

I N T E R G R O U P E " T I M O R - O R I E N T A L "
I N T E R G R O U P " E A S T - T I M O R "

Declaration of Principles

The European Parliament's role, as a Community institution, in upholding international law, human rights and democratic values is, without doubt, necessary and beyond dispute.

An intergroup on East-Timor was set up within it to implement and coordinate European Parliament's action on this case of oppression and genocide.

The European Parliament's attitude has been decisive in similar situations such as the liberation of Namibia, the abolition of Apartheid and the Saharan and Palestinian peoples' demand for self-determination.

However, besides the obvious historical and political differences, these nations, unlike the people of East Timor, have never been victims of a genocide or been threatened with extinction.

The East Timor question is therefore a case of a Member State of the United Nations failing to apply repeated, clear and unequivocal UN resolutions.

Under international law, Portugal is still responsible for administration of the territory, which was invaded and occupied by Indonesia in 1975. The European Community is therefore directly concerned since Portugal is a Member State.

Moreover, the Indonesian Republic is a Member of the ASEAN economic group with which the Community has special economic and political relations; it therefore has particular responsibility in the formulation of its cooperation policy.

The intergroup's objectives are as follows:

- (i) ending the genocide of the Timorese people;
- (ii) ending the systematic violations of human rights;
- (iii) drawing up statements on the violation of international law, the refusal to recognize a nation's right to self-determination and freedom and violations of social, cultural, religious, civil and professional human rights;
- (iv) ensuring that the international community brings pressure to bear on Indonesia to restore the exercise of the East-Timorese people's rights to self-determination in accordance with international law.

To achieve these objectives, the intergroup proposes:

1. promoting measures to provide information on the historical background and present situation in East Timor, Portugal's legal responsibilities and the European Community's duty to show solidarity with the region and people of East Timor;
2. organizing debates and exchanges of information on the subject with international experts;
3. holding discussions with representatives of the Timorese people;
4. increasing awareness of the seriousness of the situation among the other Community institutions and Member States, United Nations agencies, other countries with special relations with Indonesia, government agencies and NGOs in order to complete the process of decolonizing the territory under the responsibility of and along the guidelines established by the United Nations.